August 12, 1857

Hello journal, its Shannon again! We are just leaving Fort Leavenworth and have been walking in the sweltering heat for nearly four hours now. Each day we only manage to travel about 10 miles. Sense our mother passed away giving birth, and father was killed by Indians nothing seems to keep us motivated. Catherine and I being the oldest, have been taking turns pulling the wagon along the trail, it is now my turn to be inside the wagon. Margaret and Todd are playing pass the rock while walking along, and it will be their turn for the wagon in a few minutes.

I find it especially hard to get food, because father was always the one to hunt for us, and none of us ever learned. Catherine, Margaret and I being women, were never taught and Todd is only eight years of age. It is for hunting and jobs that only men can do, that Catherine must get married at only fifteen years old. It is now Margaret and Todd’s turn to sit inside the wagon, and Catherine and I will start looking for a place to set camp for the night. I will write back soon!

By: Shannon S.